THOMAS LINCOLN
PHOTOGRAPH

DRAWER 1 FATHER - THOMAS LINCOLN

71.2009.[illegible]

Thomas

Thomas Lincoln Family

Thomas Lincoln Photograph

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.05365

Fathers

January 26, 1932

Mrs. L. J. Schaffer
Franklin, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Schaffer:

A year or two ago Miss of the State Library showed me a portrait which you own, thought to have been a likeness of the father of Abraham Lincoln.

We would like very much to have this picture copied and sent out to the newspapers to see if we can find any further information about it. Would you object to having this picture circulated in hope that we might find someone else who may have had a copy?

I would also appreciate very much if you would tell me in a few words just how you came in possession of the picture so that this might go along with the story. If you anticipate selling the picture at any time, this might possibly secure a purchaser for you.

I would appreciate an early reply and will thank you for whatever favor you may wish to grant us.

Respectfully yours,

_____
Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:AAM

12

Feb 4th 32.

Mr. Louis A Warren —

Dear Sir —

Am sorry that I have have not answered your letter sooner, but I was away from home at the time on account of sickness,

I have been thinking for some time I would go & see Miss McNitt, if she had found out any more about the picture & see if we could not have it announced over the "radio" & see if any one was living or had one of these pictures — dost you think that would help? — I will tell you as briefly as I can about it, My Father, Mr O. V. Flora, enlisted in the war from Ohio and while he was in Ill, one of Lincolns realatives sold him this picture as he said he needed the money for his family badly, and he told my father that it was a genuine picture of Lincolns Father, And he always cherished it on the love he had for the son — and always told us to take good care of it we never heard of any other Thomas Lincoln until this matter came up — One of Lincolns Aunts died a few months ago in Lexington Ky. way up in her 90th thy if had only known this would surely tried to have seen her, I am afraid if we pursued the picture in the papers it would be every body would have one & may stop the sale of this, but if you still think it will help I will have a copy made & send you — will be postal card size, you can tell

what you want of what I have written,
we never lived in Indiana until after the
war — as you see we have not any other
picture —

Yours Respectfully,

Ina F. J. Schafer

Thomas Lincoln

3

Febrtary 9, 1932

3

Mrs. F. J. Schafer

My dear Mrs. Schafer:

Thank you for your reply to my inquiry about the Thomas Lincoln picture.

It appears to me that one of the first things necessary is to have a rather wide circulation of the picture in order that we may have more positive evidence as to whether of not there are other pictures available which will help to identify your portrait as one of Thomas Lincoln.

I cannot feel it will hurt the sale of your photograph but if proof is gathered that yours is an authentic one it appears to me it would help very much the sale of it.

If you could give some definite information as to just where your father purchased the portrait, in what year, and if possible the name of the party from whom he purchased it, we might be able to trace it more closely than is now possible.

If you care to have me write up a brief article, I think I could provide to give it quite a wide circulation and if this meets with your approval I will be very glad to bear any expense which you would undergo in order to send me a photograph of the original.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

March 9, 1932

Mrs. L. J. Schafer
161 Barton Place
Franklin, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Schafer:

The picture of Thomas Lincoln arrived safely and we are very glad to have it.

Just as soon as it seems convenient we will be very glad to prepare a story which may give it some circulation and help possibly in proving its identity.

If you care to dispose of it and are willing to set a price on it, we will be glad to see what we can do toward finding a purchaser.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

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LINCOLN CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE UNION
FRANKLIN, INDIANA

March 4th 32

Mr. Louis C Warren

Yours of Feb 9th received and have been waiting until I heard about the picture. It came yesterday and I think it is a very good copy, I cannot tell you what place my father was in when he got the picture or the name of the man, as he only knew he was some relative of the family & it was brought home several years before the close of the war. My Father was enlisted with the 10th Ohio Battery from Springfield Ohio & he served from the begining until the close, with honorable discharge. This picture was bough not given at one time I had it on display here on Lincoln's birth day and there was a young lawyer here who said

he had a friend in Indianapolis who had one - but I have never been able to find out who he was. the lawyer is dead now - If there is any thing more you care to know & I can tell you you can write me.

Yours respectfully
Mrs F. J. Schafer
161 Banta Place
Franklin
Ind

September 28, 1932

Mrs. F. J. Schafer

My dear Mrs. Schafer:

We are very glad to have in one of our exhibit cases the copy of the picture which you loaned us said to be that of Abraham Lincoln's father.

The librarian here is preparing a little article on the Lincolns home in Elizabethtown and if you have no objection, would like very much to use this picture as a frontispiece in this booklet. Will you kindly let me know if we may have that privilege.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

LAW:LH Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

TIN, STEEL AND SLATE ROOFING

TIN, COPPER AND SHEET IRON WARE

F. J. SCHAFER

MANUFACTURER OF

GALVANIZED IRON CORNICE AND ROOF GUTTERS

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

FRANKLIN, IND., Oct 6 1932

Mr L, A Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind —

Dear Mr. Warren.

I am received and in reply will say if this toilet is to be sold or given away it will let any body who gets it have a picture and would spoil the value of mine, and if I grant you this request and if it is to make money, don't you think I should share some ~~of it~~ thing for it, although it might be the means of training it to some one else who has one or knows who has —

I don't like to not grant your request, and will leave it to you to do the fair thing by me —

I am respectfully
Mrs F. J. Schafer
161 Banta Place not Barton

October 7, 1932

Mrs. F.J. Schafer
Franklin, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

I was very sorry to hear that you do not want the traditional picture of Thomas Lincoln published. It is my idea that it would greatly increase the value of your original by having it published so Lincoln students and collectors would know about it.

I have my manuscript written out for this little publication about Thomas Lincoln entitled"The Lincolns in Elizabethtown, Ky". The foundation here will publish the article which will probably be a 16 page pamphlet. There will only be about 500 copies printed and they will only be sold in order to defer the expense of printing them. I personally will not make a cent out of the publication, and the booklet xiii is only being published because we feel there is a need for it at this time.

I surely hope you will consider letting me use the picture. The fact that this foundation is using it in their publication will make it more acceptable to other collectors and authors and will certainly increase the value of your original.

I am enclosing a copy of my manuscript that I have written, which I will use if you give me permission to use the picture.

You can certainly depend on us not to use the picture without your permission.

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry
Librarian.

P.S. In case you do let me use the picture I will send you an autographed copy of the pamphlet immediately after it comes off the press.

TIN, STEEL AND SLATE ROOFING — TIN, COPPER AND SHEET IRON WARE

F. J. SCHAFER

MANUFACTURER OF

GALVANIZED IRON CORNICE AND ROOF GUTTERS

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

FRANKLIN, IND., Oct 10 1923

Mr Mc Murtry -

I am received and in reply will say I do not want to act ugly about the picture, but that of it was a money affair, that I should have something for the use of the picture,

But as you have already planned it to me, you have my permission to use it this time, as you think it will help with the history of the story

I am sincerely
Mrs F. J. Schafer
161 Santa Claus
Franklin
Ind -

October 19, 1932

Mrs. F.J. Schafer

Franklin, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

I was very glad to receive your letter giving me permission to use the Thomas Lincoln picture. I now have my little pamphlet in shape to publish and already it is being assembled for publishing.

In a few weeks when the pamphlet is off the press I will send you a copy. Again I want to thank you for your kindness and I assure you I appreciate the use of the picture as my pamphlet would not have been so interesting if I did not have the picture to go in it.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry

Librarian

November 11, 1932.

Mrs. F.J.Schafer

Franklin, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

I regret to say that when I had my pamphlet made up the cost of reproducing the photograph of Thomas Lincoln cost so much that we did not think it advisable to use it. I regreted this very much as I was very anxious to use the very interesting picture. My My phamplet "The Lincolns in Elizabethtown, Ky. will be off the press next week and I will send you a copy.

I am now writing a magazine article for a historical magazine concerning Abraham Lincoln and his father and I would like very much to have your permission to use the Thomas Lincoln picture. The article will be free and I will not get a thing for writing it , my principle object in writing this article is to advertise my home town in Kentucky as a historical center.

I hope you can let me use the Thomas Lincoln picture as it will my my article much more interesting.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry

Librarian

Franklin Ind
Nov 14 - 32

Mr R Gerald McMurtry -
Fort Wayne Ind -

Dear Mr. Mc -
Your letter received and was sorry you could not use the picture, but as you think adding it to your magazine article will help you to advertise your home town do so, Could you add in your article asking if there was any one living who ever saw his father or had ever seen his picture or any one knowing who had one by doing this we might

have further proof of the picture
being a genuine likeness of him.
I would like to see the article
when done - will appreciate one
of the little booklets -

I am respectfully

Mrs H. J. Schafer
161 Banta Place
Franklin
Ind

Franklin Ind
Dec 5th 32

Dear Mr. McMurtry -
Have little booklet received and have enjoyed reading it so much, many thanks I shot you were going to use the picture. In one of the articals you speak about Benjamin Helm building one of the first brick houses. I am happy to say I went to school in Madison with one of his great, great grand sons - who was named after him, I do not know where he lives now. or if he is alive. We have living here in Franklin great, great

grand children of the Rev Head who married Thomas Lincoln a his first wife Nancy Hanks. They have articles which belonged to their Mother concerning the Lincoln family.

Would like to see the other pamplet when you finish it

Sincerely yours-

Mrs H. J. Schafer
101 Banta Place
Franklin
Ind

Franklin Ind
Dec 15 - 32

Dear Mr McMurtry -

I was received this morning and was sorry you could not use the picture as you wanted to. - Go ahead & use the picture if it will help you any - as one of the greatst joy I have in my life is to help others. I hoard they don't take advantage of my kindness - and will treat me as I would them, that is all there is in this life what you make out of it. Will certainly enjoy the other papers - yours respectfully

Mrs L. A. Schafer

Franklin, Ind
April 26-33

Dr Warren— On the 9th of March I received a letter from Rufus Rockwell Wilson of the Pioneer Press of New York with a pamplet of Appraisals on which Lincoln rode, from critical was amongst them. Now I will tell you why I write you. he asked for a copy of Lincolns father's picture which he saw printed in the book called "Hoffies". I loaned it to him R Gerald McMurtry, said he would compensate me for the loan of it, so on the 11th of March I sent it to him & told what I would take for the use of it, as I had had to pay for having it copied. I have never heard a word from him, not even to acknowledge it. Now can you advise me any way how to get it back. I trusted him to be a gentleman of his word. I again wrote him on the 15 of this month & nothing as far, can you advise me any way. I sure will appreciate it

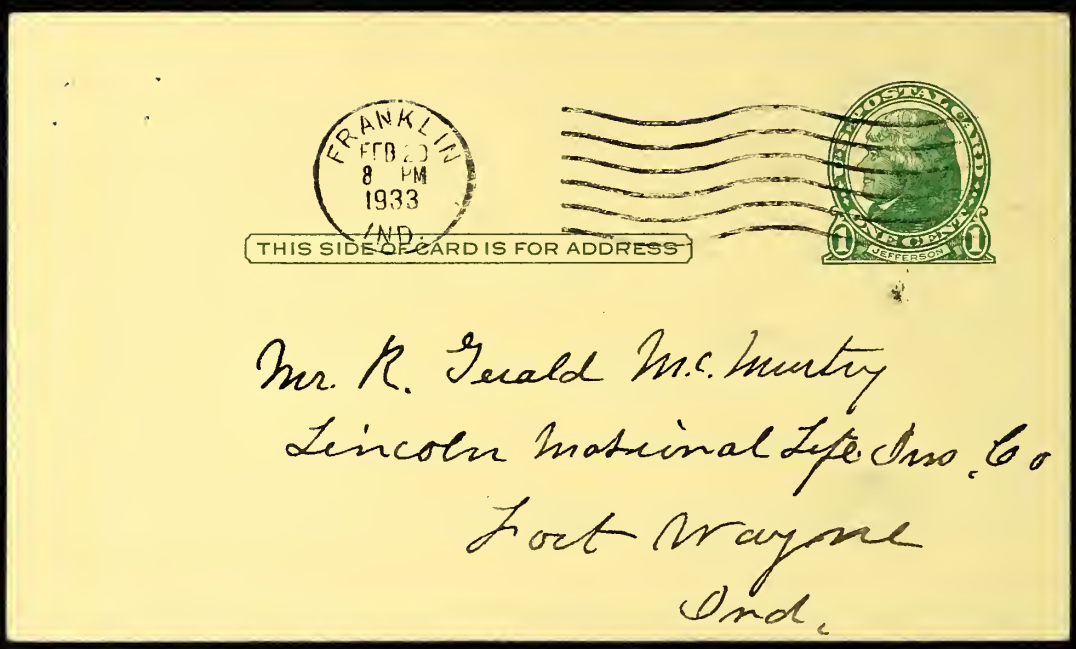
I am respectfully
Mrs F. J. Schafer
161 Banta Place
Franklin
Ind

Franklin Ind
Oct 20-33

Dear Mr McMurtry

I am magazine
received and many
thanks for same
hope it has been
some benefit to
you.

Yours sincerely
Mrs F. J. Stofer



Mr. R. Gerald McInturff
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co
Fort Wayne
Ind.

April 27, 1933

Mrs. F.J. Schafer
161 Banta Place
Franklin, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

You letter to Dr. Warren has been handed to me to answer in regard to the Thomas Lincoln picture. I must say that I am rather surprised at the letter because I was very careful not to use the photograph without permission, and you agreed to let me use it with the understanding that there would be no costs connected with it, because I was not receiving any money for my article which included a photo of Lincoln's father. I have all this correspondence filed here in regard to our agreement.

As soon as the photograph was published in Hobbies Magazine I mailed you a copy and on February 20th. 1933 I received a postal card from you acknowledging the magazine. I have not received a word from you since that time. Your letter states that you wrote me a letter on March 15th. but I have not received this letter.

You say that I did not acknowledge thanks for the use of the photograph, but I have many letter here that we used in our correspondence regarding the picture.

I also have never received a photography from you, the photograph I used was copied from the one that is in our collection here in Fort Wayne. If you mailed me a photograph of Thomas Lincoln I never received it. I am however enclosing under separate a copy that I have had made from our copy here in the museum.

I am very sorry that this misunderstanding has occured. I have always been very particular not to use the photograph without your permission, and I also used the photograph with the understanding that I was not to receive any money for it, and I have not received any money for the article. I surely do appreciate the use of the photograph, and I would like to hear from you because I would like to have you know that I have tridd to do the right thing about the use of your picture.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Franklin, Ind
April 28-33

Dear Mr McMurtry.

Just received your letter and was some surprised, as it was a letter I wrote to Dr Warren about Mr Rufus Rockwell Wilson. It was not about you at all as you were nice about the picture, and I was glad to help you.

I think if you get the letter and read it over again you will see it does not refer to you at all, only that this Mr Wilson saw the picture in the "Hoffies" and that I had loaned it to you, I have no complaint whatever against you, but I do think this Mr Wilson has not treated me right about the picture and I asked Dr Warren if he knew any way I could get it back and get him to pay for the use of it. Hope this is satisfactory to you.

Sincerely yours.

Mrs L. J. Schafer

His address is
The Pioneer Press
1107 Broadway
New York
Suite 1027.

Just received your large picture
many thanks - it is fine

May 2, 1933

Mrs. F.J. Schafer
161 Santa Place
Franklin, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

I was glad to know after receiving your letter that you were not refering to me in regard to the Lincoln picture.

The only address of Mr. Wilson thatwe have is the one you give in your letter. We hear from him occasionally as he is the publisher of many Lincoln books.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

July 19, 1934

Mrs. F.J. Schafer
161 South Place
Franklin, Indiana.

Dear Mrs. Schafer:

I am writing another Lincoln article for the Kentucky Progress Magazine, and I would like to illustrate this article with the Thomas Lincoln photograph. The subject of my story will be: "The Lincolns' Their Interest In The Breeding And Racing Of Horses".

As usual I will not profit by the use of this picture or article in any way. I of course will give your name as the owner of the original photograph in my article.

I will appreciate your permission to use the Thomas Lincoln photograph.

Yours Very Truly

R.Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

P.S.

If I receive your permission to use the photograph, and the article is published I shall send you a copy of the magazine.

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TIN, STEEL AND SLATE ROOFING — TIN, COPPER AND SHEET IRON WARE

F. J. SCHAFER

MANUFACTURER OF

GALVANIZED IRON CORNICE AND GUTTERS OF ALL KIND

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

FRANKLIN, IND., July 28 1934

Dear Mr McMurtry —

Yours received several days ago, and as for the permission to use the photograph in your article I have no objections if of any advantage to you, I think you have a copy; if not let me know & I will send you one to use.

I was just wondering if you could add a few lines to ask if any one living today ever saw Lincoln's father, if so to write to us. would appreciate a copy of the magazine if printed - if at any time I can help you in this way will be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours

Mrs F J Schafer
161 Davis Place
Franklin
Ind.

July 21, 1936

Mrs. J. F. Schaffer
161 Banta Place
Franklin, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Schaffer:

We are interested to know whether or not you have ever found any confirmation with respect to the picture thought to be that of Thomas Lincoln. We have had one or two inquiries here about it and would like to know whether or not the identification has been confirmed to any further extent.

We are wondering if you have thought of disposing of the picture as we feel that if we had it in our hands we might send it on to some specialist to have the paper tested and other examinations made that would allow us to be more certain as to whether or not we have a picture of Thomas Lincoln.

I would be very glad to hear from you with reference to the picture and whether or not you have been able to establish its identity.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:EB

Franklin Ind
Aug 20-1934

Mr L. A. Warren
Fort Wayne
Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren - Yours received
some time ago and have just neglected
to answer sooner as has been to warm
to do anything and I have been having
so much trouble with my eyes. I have talked
to a number of people and they say why
don't I write to Hazard son and see if he has
a picture of him. I don't know his
address or would. All photographers
I have talked to say it is a colored
picture from a daguerreotype and colored
later on as during the civil war pict
ures were taken on paper as I told

I you that it was during the war that my Father obtained it. lots of people have wanted me to give it to them but if it is worth some thing to them it is to me. I have that several times I would have it announced over the radio asking if there was any one living who ever saw him or his picture. I was told one time by a young lawyer who lived here said he had a friend in the City who had one but I did not learn his name and the lawyer is dead now. Sure by some one has one some place, I would lend it to you if it would do you any good but would want it back if I did not care to sell it.

Yours respectfully

Mrs F. J. Schafer

Franklin Ind

141 Banta Place

August 26, 1936

Mrs. F. J. Schafer
191 Banta Place
Franklin, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Schafer:

I think you have been correctly advised with reference to the traditional Thomas Lincoln picture which you have, being a copy of the original print and I also believe, as you suggest, that there must be others of them printed for certainly more than one of them would be copied.

Thomas Lincoln's grandson, Robert Lincoln, only surviving son of Abraham Lincoln, is now dead and has been for the past five or six years and his papers and Lincoln mementos have been locked up and presented to the Library of Congress where they will not be opened for some twenty years.

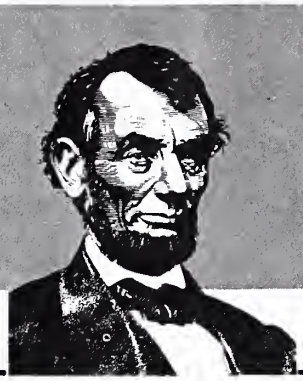
If we were in possession of the picture we would go to some extent to try and find out whether or not it was an original likeness of Thomas Lincoln. It would necessitate the expenditure of quite a bit of money and much correspondence but we would not care to put forth all of this effort unless the picture was ours.

Would you be willing to dispose of the picture without any guarantee that it is Thomas Lincoln's, we taking all of the risk? If so, will you let us know what you want for it.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director



LincolnLore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1577 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA July, 1969

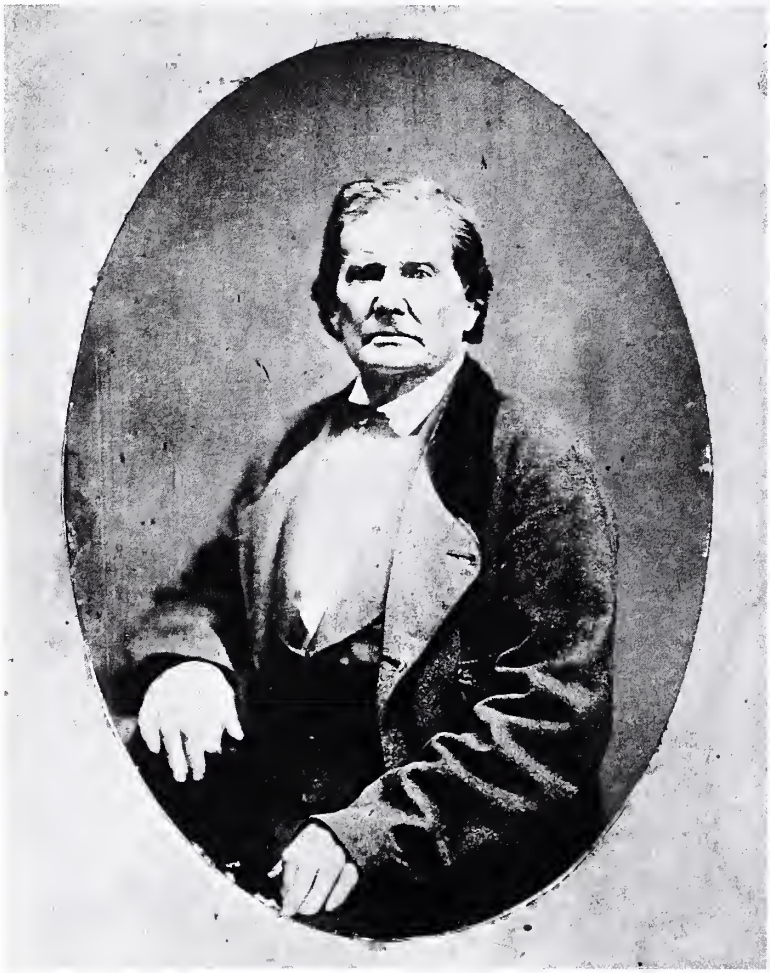
Was Thomas Lincoln Photographed?

Editor's Note: The controversy over whether or not Thomas Lincoln was ever photographed still remains unresolved. In almost every pictorial work about the Sixteenth President the so-called photograph of Thomas Lincoln is included with the qualifying statement that it is "a traditional portrait." The photograph appears on page 297 in Charles Hamilton and Lloyd Ostendorf's work *Lincoln In Photographs — An Album of Every Known Pose*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1963, with the caption "A traditional portrait."

In a comment concerning the photograph, the authors state that "The reflected light on the shirt indicates that this photograph is probably a copy of an old daguerreotype. It was purchased by Lieutenant O. V. Flora during the Civil War from a member of the Lincoln family. Under the picture is written in an early hand: 'Thomas Lincoln, Born 1778, Died 1851.' Many scholars doubt its authenticity, but the rugged angular features of the subject, so dramatically Lincolnesque, match contemporary descriptions of Thomas Lincoln."

In the February, 1944 issue of the *Lincoln Herald*, volume XLVI, number 1, pages 21 to 24, I attempted to delve into the problem of the identification of the photograph. While my efforts failed to convince the hard core of Lincoln students who were so vehement in their belief that the photograph was a fraud, I think it appropriate to reprint my article (with the permission of the Editor of the *Lincoln Herald*) as apparently nothing new about the identity or origin of the photograph has developed. Then, too, it is my feeling that I have delved more deeply into the matter of identity and origin than any other writer.

R. G. M.



From the Lincoln Memorial University Collection

This early photograph is inscribed in faded ink on one line the name and dates "Thomas Lincoln — Born 1778 Died 1851".

Among Lincoln groups during the last few years there has been much discussion about a photograph which some students have claimed to be that of the President's father, Thomas Lincoln. This writer first published the photograph with an article entitled "Thomas Lincoln In Elizabethtown, Kentucky," in the *Kentucky Progress Magazine*, Winter Edition, 1933, Vol. 5, No. 2. The photograph was then labeled "traditional" and no further documentary evidence has been discovered to lead one to change the label to "genuine." However, since that date certain historians have given the photograph considerable study, even if they have been unwilling to accept it.

For several years the photograph has been the property of Mrs. F. J. Schafer of Franklin, Indiana. It was originally owned by her father, Lieutenant O. V. Flora, who enlisted in the Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War. He served in the Tenth Ohio Battery from Springfield, receiving an honorable discharge on May 5, 1865. For a limited period he was assigned to service in Charleston, Illinois, where United States troops were engaged in stamping out a subversive organization, known as the Knights of the Golden Circle. While in that Illinois city he bought the photograph from some member of the Lincoln family who claimed it was a genuine picture of Thomas Lincoln. Most likely the vendor was a member of the Johnston family, a descendant of Sarah Bush, the second wife of Thomas Lincoln. If the so-called Thomas Lincoln photograph is genuine, one could surmise that it was probably made by a Charleston photographer, as that was the largest town nearest the Lincolns' place of residence, although no markings or signature of a photographer can be discovered on the original print.

Half-tone reproductions of the photograph received a wide distribution in 1941 when the portrait appeared in Stefan Lorant's book, "Lincoln, His Life In Photographs." In this book there is a cut-line to the effect that the photograph was made by "one of the members of the Hanks family."

Practically every book reviewer in the Lincoln field branded the photograph a fraud and suggested that someone had imposed upon the compiler's credulity in the matter of the Thomas Lincoln picture. The consensus of their opinions was that "there is no such thing."

In November, 1943, Mrs. Schafer presented the original to the Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University. Because of the interest it has created, we

are reviewing again some facts concerning the disputed picture. The photograph is cabinet size, oval in shape, and it has been mounted on flexible cardboard 7¾ inches by 10 inches. It is slightly faded and has every appearance of being of the period claimed. We have made an effort to discover the names of Charleston photographers of the 1850s and our search has resulted in the finding of the name of John Simpson who is listed in an early directory as a daguerreotypist in Charleston in 1854. Unfortunately he left no record of his work and his name is of no significance in this study.

It seems unlikely that a member of the Hanks family, as suggested by the cut-line in the Lorant book, would have made Tom Lincoln's photograph. Photography was first introduced into the United States in 1839 when Abraham Lincoln was thirty years old, and his first photograph is believed to have been made by N. H. Shepherd in Springfield, Illinois, in 1846. The earliest method known as daguerreotypy was popular about fifteen years and in the 1850s gave way to the ambrotype, an improved and less expensive method. Step by step other improved methods were introduced and the possibility that Thomas Lincoln sat for a photograph is not out of the realm of probability. Nevertheless, there appears to have been a photographer in the Lincoln family. His name was Thomas Johnston, a son of John D. Johnston, who in turn was a step-son of Lincoln's father. In Eleanor Gridley's work, "The Story of Abraham Lincoln," Estill & Co., 1901, pages 26 and 27, the following information, in the words of John Hall, are given concerning Tom Johnston:

"Uncle Abe give him a pass to go all over the Army takin' picters."

While there is a remote possibility that Thomas Johnston might have taken Thomas Lincoln's "picter," because quantities of such a photograph would have had a commercial value, such a supposition is doubtful. However, as an itinerant photographer he might have offered for sale quantities of the photograph taken by some other member of his profession.

On the other hand, taking into consideration the evidence of both sides of the case, Mrs. Schafer's father bought the photograph from some person whom he believed to be a member of the Lincoln family; he secured the photograph in the community where Thomas Lincoln had lived; he purchased it in good faith and had no qualms in his lifetime concerning its authenticity. Moreover, the photograph is labeled in contemporary ink in old fashioned letters:

"Thomas Lincoln. Born 1778. Died 1851."

The birth and death years inscribed on the photograph are accepted by most historians as correct; however, those who have delved into Kentucky court house records have found Thomas Lincoln's name listed in the Hardin County tax list for the year 1797 as "twenty-one years old or older," and maintain that he was "born with the Republic" in the year 1776. Needless to say, most biographers as well as the Lincolns recorded the birthdate as 1778.

A study of the original photograph reveals no clue or lead for additional research. The physiognomy of the traditional Thomas Lincoln in this picture is not out of harmony with the personal descriptions of the pioneer that have been recorded by the men who knew him. There are deep-set eyes, high cheek bones, a pro-

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Early photograph of the grave stone of Thomas Lincoln in the Shiloh (sometimes called Gordon) Cemetery near Janesville, Coles County, Illinois. Tombstone gives death date as January 15. Thomas Lincoln died January 17, 1851. This monument was erected in May 1880 and Robert T. Lincoln is reported to have contributed $118. toward the cost. Today the original stone stands near the entrance to the cemetery and a new monument has been placed over the grave. It was dedicated May 16, 1924, under the auspices of the Illinois Lions Clubs.

From the Lincoln Memorial University Collection

Lieutenant O. V. Flora, who purchased the so-called Thomas Lincoln photograph from some member of the Lincoln family in Charleston, Illinois.

truding lower lip and other Lincolnian characteristics that are worthy of consideration.

One of the best descriptions of Thomas Lincoln, written by Dr. W. H. Doak, appeared in the *Terre Haute Star* of February 11, 1923:

> "Thomas Lincoln stood very erect. Always clean shaven . . . He was five feet, ten or eleven inches in height, standing very erect, with large bones and strong, heavy muscles—not fat, weighing about 170 or 175 pounds, with a medium high forehead. Straight nose, gray or light blue eyes, rather a broad face and black hair, which he wore combed straight down, cut off square at the ends, and not combing his front locks behind his ears, it gave him something of a picturesque appearance."

With little data on hand to make a case for or against the so-called Thomas Lincoln photograph, no conclusions can be reached as to its authenticity. Limited knowledge of a thing usually provokes a negative reaction, and conservative students always take a safe position until documentary facts can prove the point in question; nevertheless it is believed that if the Thomas Lincoln photograph is not genuine the hoax was perpetrated in the 1860s. It is unfortunate that this photograph was not brought to light at an earlier period and that Lieutenant Flora was not carefully interviewed by some competent historian before his death on December 23, 1915. Some revealing statement, coming directly from him might have cleared up the puzzling problem.

Thomas Lincoln Furniture

Editor's Note: The Editor does not wish to bear the responsibility of declaring these particular pieces of furniture, discussed in this article, as being genuine Lincoln productions. While numerous other items of furniture, claimed to have been made by Thomas Lincoln, have been brought to my attention, I have selected the kitchen safe, chest of drawers and desk as best fitting the yardstick of authenticity as to date, place and association.

R.G.M.

In *Lincoln Lore* Number 1476 (Thomas Lincoln's Corner Cupboards) February, 1961 and Number 1512 (Furniture Made By Thomas Lincoln) February, 1964, attention was directed to Thomas Lincoln as a cabinet maker with considerable discussion devoted to the corner cupboards, wall cupboard, hutch, chest, desk, chest of drawers, day bed and mantelpiece which are believed to be the handwork of Lincoln's father.

The publication of these articles led to considerable correspondence, and as a result, additional furniture attributed to Thomas Lincoln was discovered.

Kitchen Safe

One piece is a kitchen safe owned by The University of Chicago Library. It is made of cherry wood, and measures 35½" x 62" x 12", outside dimensions. It contains three shelves and two full-length doors which are paneled with perforated tin. The overall appearance, even discounting age and use, is rough hewn.

The safe was a part of the William E. Barton collection and was acquired along with the books, manuscripts and artifacts of the prominent biographer. In fact, the Barton collection formed the nucleus of the Lincolniana now owned by The University of Chicago Library.

At various times in the past, the kitchen safe has been on exhibit, but at the present time it is kept in a non-public area of the Library's Department of Special Collections.

The following affidavits giving the history of the kitchen safe were acquired by Dr. Barton in 1929:

A Statement Concerning the Kitchen Safe Made by Thomas Lincoln by Nancy A. Hall, Daughter of John J. Hall Who Owned and Occupied and Sold in 1892 The Lincoln Log Cabin.

I certify that the wooden safe with perforated tin panels which I have sold this day to Dr. William E. Barton was made by Thomas Lincoln and for years until her death in 1860 was used by his wife Sarah Bush Lincoln in the Lincoln Log Cabin in Coles County Illinois. I was born in that cabin and the safe was a familiar article of furniture in my childhood. It was never removed from the cabin until that cabin was taken down for removal in 1892 and since then has stood in my house on the farm adjacent. Tin such as is used in this safe brought up the Wabash river from Cincinnati or Pittsburgh and sold at Terre Haute and inland towns and used by local carpenters of whom Thomas Lincoln was one, protecting food from dust and flies while giving it ventilation. These safes were very popular and the housewife who owned one was very proud. My great-grandmother Lincoln prized this safe very highly, and I am glad to sell it to be added to the Lincoln collection of my friend Dr. Barton.

Signed: Nancy A. Hall

I, Clarence Hall, hereby witness the signature of my mother, and add my own affirmation that her statement is in full accord with what I have always been told and believe.

Signed: Clarence T. Hall

Janesville, Illinois
May 10, 1929

A second affidavit follows:

The Lincoln Kitchen Safe

The kitchen safe which I have sold to Dr. William E. Barton was made by Thomas Lincoln and was used by my great-grandmother, Sarah Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's step-mother until her death, December 10, 1869.

I was born in the Lincoln cabin, the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln last visited his step-mother in January 1861, and in which both she and her husband, Abraham Lincoln's father died. My parents owned the cabin and my father sold it to the Lincoln Log Cabin Association in 1891 for removal to Chicago. I have lived all my life in that cabin and the home I now occupy on the adjacent farm.

The safe was in the home when I was born and had been there for many years. It has never been out of possession of our family. It was used by my grandmother, Matilda Johnston Hall, wife of my grandfather Squire Hall, and by my parents, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hall who owned the Lincoln cabin after the death of Lincoln's step-mother until its sale in 1891.

Signed: Nancy A. Hall

Clarence T. Hall
Witness
Janesville, Illinois
May 10, 1929

Chest of Drawers

Arthur E. Patterson I of Indianapolis, Indiana stated in a letter dated February 25, 1964 that a highly prized item in his family is a "cherry chest of drawers made by Thomas Lincoln for Mr. and Mrs. David Turnham." The owner stated that "The chest was (a piece) of their 'wedding furniture' and is in perfect condition. I believe it is recorded that the Turnhams came to Indiana and settled in Spencer County, C. 1819. It is said that Mr. Turnham, who was a constable, loaned Abraham Lincoln the Revised Statutes of Indiana, which was probably the first law book Lincoln ever studied."

If this chest of drawers belonged to David Turnham, it was one of two pieces of furniture made by Thomas Lincoln that he owned. In *Lincoln Lore* Number 1476 a corner cupboard designated as No. III The Turnham-Johnson cupboard of walnut wood is described. It is owned by the Evansville, Indiana Public Museum. Ac-

Cherry tilt-top desk attributed to Thomas Lincoln. Owned by John J. Fierst of Jasper, Indiana.